

# VICTORIA FALLS



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of the World*

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## Rest Camp Facilities

The standard of accommodation and cuisine at the famous Victoria Falls Hotel, which overlooks the Falls themselves, is extremely high, and hotel accommodation of good standard is also obtainable in the town of Livingstone. But many people, especially those with families, may prefer the more free and easy life of the Rest Camps which have been established on both the Southern and Northern banks of the Falls.

On the Southern Rhodesia bank, where a National Park has been established, there are two Rest Camps—Main Camp, which is close to the Victoria Falls village, and the Zambezi Camp, which is situated four miles up river in shady surroundings and commanding magnificent views of the river and islands. The Zambezi Camp consists of a single building with a number of large double rooms, comfortably furnished, and with adequate bathing and sanitary arrangements.

The Main Rest Camp is reached by taking the first turning to the left off the main road on reaching the village and continuing along the secondary road for about two hundred yards, when the Rest Camp will be seen on the right. It is easily reached from the Railway Station by a path leading from the main road at the end of the platform direct to the huts, a walk of five or six minutes.

The huts at Main Camp are substantially built and comfortably furnished with beds, mattresses, chairs, table and toilet set. Each bed is fitted with a mosquito net and the windows are curtained and mosquito-proofed. Bedding is provided at the option of the visitor. Crockery and cutlery may be hired from the Falls Supply Store, where a full range of groceries is also stocked. The butcher boy from Livingstone calls daily for orders. Food is cooked in open air fireplaces near the huts. If visitors do not care to undertake their own cooking they can meet their needs at a Restaurant situated on the edge of the National Park area adjacent to the main road and within a few minutes walk of the Rest Camp.

Wood and water are provided free of charge and water-borne sanitation and bathrooms are provided in separate blocks in the grounds.

Authorised natives to help with the rough work, such as chopping wood and cleaning, may be hired at 1s. 6d. per day.

Charges at Main Camp are 5s. per person per day if no bedding is ordered and 6s. per person per day with bedding. At Zambezi Camp the charge is 7s. 6d. per person per day with bedding. Double and family huts are available at Main Camp.

Visitors bringing their own tents and camping equipment can use a fine camping area adjacent to the main Rest Camp where hot and cold water, sanitation and firewood are available. The charge for use of the camping area is 1s. per day per person.

Bookings for the Rest Camps on the Southern Rhodesia bank should be made in advance by applying to the Warden, Victoria Falls National Park, P.B. 8, Victoria Falls, who should also be informed of the date and probable time of your arrival, whether you are travelling by road, rail or air, and in which Camp you wish to stay.

On the Northern Rhodesia bank is a Rest Camp of thatched rondavels overlooking the river above the Falls which is controlled by the Victoria Falls Trust. The Rest Huts in this Camp are equipped with electric light and adequate furniture, with separate bathrooms and outside fireplaces for cooking. Accommodation costs 3s. per person per day (children under 12, 1s. 6d.) but tenants are expected to supply their own food and cooking utensils. Bedding is supplied, if required, at an extra charge of 2s. 6d. for the first night and 1s. per night thereafter. A tearoom which is open until 10 p.m. where full meals are served and tinned goods stocked, is situated near the camp. It is advisable to book bungalows in advance, especially from May to August and over the Easter, Christmas and Rhodes and Founders holiday periods. Reservations must be made through The Conservator, Victoria Falls Trust, Box 86, Livingstone.

Tents may be pitched on the tent sites near the rest camp where there are latrines and running water. Caravans may also be parked in this area. No camping in tents is permitted between November and March inclusive.



Some of the rest huts, in pleasant, wooded surroundings, in the Victoria Falls National Park on the Southern Rhodesian side of the Zambezi



## Facts and Figures about the Falls

WHEN you see the Victoria Falls to-day you see them as Dr. Livingstone first saw them on November 16, 1855. With the exception of the great rail and road cantilever bridge which links Southern and Northern Rhodesia, nothing has been added to or taken from Nature. The beauty of the Falls, ever changing throughout the seasons as the flow of the Zambezi changes, is that which led Livingstone to exclaim: 'Scenes so lovely must have been gazed upon by angels in their flight.'

By rail, road and air many thousands of tourists travel to the Falls annually. To see them at their most spectacular, visits should be arranged for April or May, when the Zambezi River is at its height, but the great clouds of spray often obscure the giant walls of water and the sightseer has to wait for a chance breeze to wipe away the curtain of mist. During July and August the spray lessens considerably, and fine views of the awe-inspiring cataract are bounded by the tracery of the myriad waterfalls. So popular have the Falls become, however, that the 'season' may be said to have vanished, and early reservation of hotel and rail bookings is now essential throughout the year.

The splendour and breathtaking size of the Victoria Falls which entranced Livingstone, James Chapman, Thomas Barnes, F. C. Selous, Lord Curzon and many others, drew the Royal Family to spend their rest period, during their arduous tour of South Africa and Southern Rhodesia, in exploring the almost countless views and walks. They were the most recent Royal visitors, following the example set by Princess Christian and Princess Victoria in 1904, and continued by King Edward VIII, then Prince of Wales, in 1925, and by Prince George, the late Duke of Kent, in 1933.

Much has been written about the Falls, but their attractions were best summed up by a Lieutenant Alfred Bethell, of the Bechuanaland Border Police, who saw them in 1886: 'The uniqueness—to coin a word—of the Falls, combined with their stupendous magnificence, renders it impossible for any words to do them justice. To understand and realise, one must see.'

The approximate total length of the Zambezi River is 1,725 miles. The Victoria Falls are situated 750 miles from its source. The Zambezi rises in Northern Rhodesia, passes through an area in Angola, and after forming the boundary between Northern and Southern Rhodesia, flows through Portuguese East Africa into the Indian Ocean at Chinde, 975 miles from the Falls. The following tables (compiled from information obtained from the Surveyor-General's and Irrigation Departments, Salisbury, and the Lands Department, Livingstone, Northern Rhodesia) give the approximate dimensions of the Victoria Falls:

Width, including islands	-	-	1,860 yards
Width, excluding islands	-	-	1,513 yards
Mean height, Devil's Cataract	-	-	200 feet
Mean height, Main Falls	-	-	273 feet
Mean height, Rainbow Falls	-	-	325 feet
Mean height, Eastern Cataract	-	-	316 feet
Greatest fall	-	-	335 feet
Height, Northern Rhodesia Bank	-	-	232 feet
Mean height, the whole Falls	-	-	304 feet
(Niagara Falls, U.S.A., 170 feet)			

(continued overleaf)



This unscientific view of the Main and Rainbow Falls is obtained from the Southern Rhodesia bank as the spray clears.

#### Facts and figures (continued)

The fall in the river bed in the gorge from Devil's Cataract to the break through to the Boiling Pot is 137 feet. The mean rail level on the Bridge is 8 feet lower than the lip of the Falls. The highest known rise of the river at the gauge post on the Northern Rhodesia side is 11-45 feet. The highest known rise of the water in the gorge is 56 feet.

The maximum flow over the Falls (reached in April to May) is 12 million cubic feet (75 million gallons) per minute. The minimum flow over the Falls (in November and December) is 594,000 cubic feet (three and three-quarter million gallons) per minute. Every foot rise in the river above the rapids gives a 6-foot rise in the Gorge.

The altitude of the Victoria Falls Bridge above sea level is 2,882 feet.

Mean temperature: Summer, 78.8 degrees F.; Winter, 67.5 degrees F. Mean annual rainfall, 29.86 inches. Geographical position of Falls: Latitude 17° 55' S. Longitude 25° 51' E.

*Express trains* (with dining cars) run from Bulawayo to the Victoria Falls in under 11 hours, while through passenger trains take about 15-16 hours.



The fine statue of David Livingstone at the Victoria Falls. Nine feet high and mounted on a 35-ton rock, it overlooks the Devil's Cataract.

#### facts and figures (continued)

For the road traveller there is a good stripped road throughout the 292-mile journey, with refreshments and accommodation available (again, early reservations are advisable) at Lopani, 100 miles from Bulawayo, at Halfway House, 140 miles, and Wankie, 217 miles. From Wankie to the Victoria Falls motorists should travel carefully on the long series of blind bends which are a feature of this part of the road.

##### *Details of the Victoria Falls Bridge are:*

Length, approximately 219 yards. Total weight, 1,868 tons. Span of South approach, 87½ feet. Span of Main arch, 500 feet. Span of North approach, 62½ feet. Depth of Main arch at bearings, 105 feet. Rise of Main arch at crown, 90 feet. Distance of Bridge in direct line from Hotel, 1,617 yards. Bridge originally built for two rail tracks in 1905 by The Cleveland Bridge & Engineering Co., Darlington, England. Roadway added and bridge heightened and strengthened by same firm in 1930.

The Northern Rhodesia side of the Bridge is the Southern end.

Tests have shown the depth of the water under the Bridge at low water to be only 60 feet. The total area drained by the Zambezi at the Falls is 140,000 square miles. Mean annual flow: 30 million acre feet.

The altitude of the Victoria Falls above sea level is 2,900 feet.

## Southern Rhodesia Side

**Devil's Cataract, Livingstone's Statue, Chain's Walk and Rain Forest.**—This, the western side of the Falls, is best seen in the afternoon. After crossing the 'S' bend over the railway line, go along the path at the side of the trolley track to Livingstone's Statue—a nine-foot high masterpiece standing on a granite plinth of 35 tons facing the gorge. Carry on to the edge of the gorge where you can look down over the Devil's Cataract towards the Main Falls. The island in between is Cataract Island. On your way back go down Chain's Walk, where some exquisite views of the Main Falls and the Gorge may be seen, especially when the spray is painted with rainbows. After returning to the top take the left-hand steps, which will bring you to the entrance to the Rain Forest, passing a very fine view of Devil's Cataract on the left. In the Rain Forest visit after visit of marvellous views of the Falls continue you. You are out of the Forest proper when you are opposite Livingstone Island. Continue, and you will arrive at Dangay Point. See Eve's Footprint, a life-size impression in the rock to the left of Danger Point. On the right you get a very fine downward view of the Building Pts. On returning to the path, turn left and you will arrive at the Bridge.

**Cataract Island**—(July August to January, according to the height of the river). About 200 yards up the river bank from Devil's Cataract a causeway leaves for the island (fire Island). A trip to this island will more than repay you; from it is a view of the Main Falls finer than any seen from the mainland. Another entrancing view is obtained by going to the Devil's Cataract side of the island where from a vantage point you stand directly over the rushing waters. When you wish to return to the mainland go back to the landing stage where a rail will be seen hanging from a tree near the water. Striking this several times will call the canoe boys.

**River Bank Walk to the Big Tree**—Start at the Devil's Cataract and walk along the river bank until you come to

the Railway Boat house, where tea is obtainable. Continue your walk through the date palmwood later, near the turn-off to the Big Tree, through the very nut palms (Mutala Palm). The Big Tree itself can now be seen a couple of hundred yards further on. This tree is a Baobab, or Tree of Taras, 66 feet round the base and 140 feet high. Many names have been carved on it in the past, but this vandalism has now been stopped and offenders will be prosecuted without further warning.

**Launch Trip Up-River to Kandahar Island**—A most enjoyable two-and-a-half hours can be spent on the Zambezi River in a launch trip to Kandahar Island. Book your seat at the Hotel, for either the morning or afternoon trip. The launch leaves the Bushhouse at 9.30 a.m. or 2.30 p.m. The charge of £6s. includes a trolley ride from the Hotel in the Brougham. On the way up-river you first pass Princess Christian Island on the right, then Princess Elizabeth (formerly Sisterbello) Island on the left, and go up through the rapids to where the launch turns left, passing King George VI Island on the right. Keep an eye open for the sand a little further on in the left with the white palms on it—the reflections here are very beautiful at times. The next big island passed is Queen Elizabeth, on your left. This is the island on which Dr. Livingstone camped before he sailed down to discover the falls from the island which bears his name. From now on the river widens between King George VI Island and the mainland until you come to Kandahar Island. You can walk right round the island and on your return to the landing stage will find tea awaiting you. Also awaiting you will be many monkeys looking for bits of biscuit. Opposite the landing stage at Kandahar is Palm Island. On your return journey you pass down the other side of King George VI Island. The buildings on the bank are the Livingstone Municipality pump station and the Zambezi Boating Club. At 12 p.m. or 5 p.m., depending on which trip you have taken, you will arrive at the Bushhouse, from where a trolley will take you back to the Hotel.

## \* WHAT TO SEE AND HOW TO GET THERE

### Northern Rhodesia (Eastern) Side

**Eastern Cataract**—The best time to visit this part of the Falls is in the morning, with the sun shining on the spray. Cross the bridge, coming along the path leading from the steps at the side of the bridge until you come to the Northern Rhodesian War Memorial, commemorating World War I, then cross over the lawn to the Falls. The steps on the right go down to the bottom of the Gorge. (a) The path to the left goes along and down to a point opposite the Cataract. Further on another path leads to the left to a point looking down on to Palm Grove and the Boiling Pot, with the Bridge in the distance over which can be seen the Hotel. Come back on to the first path and, turning left, go out on to Knife Edge; it's not too venturesome, for the Knife Edge can be very slippery and there was a big drop on either side. (b) Retrace your steps to the starting point of the Memorial and take the path round to the left to the top of the Falls, passing on the way the native curio sellers. The view from the top of the Gorge looking towards Livingstone Island in the distance is really attractive. (c) Walk up the river bank to the cause about three-quarters of a mile away, passing the same stage for the trip to Livingstone Island. A very pleasant half hour can be spent on the bank among the tropical palms.

**Palm Grove**—Near the shelter in the side of the Memorial go down the steps on to a path which will take you through a very pretty part of Palm Grove right down to the Boiling Pot, a matter of ten minutes' walk. Good views of the Falls are obtained from the rocks to the left. Be careful not to go too close to the water's edge owing to the surges in the madly whirling water.

**Livingstone Island**—(July August to January, according to the height of the river). This trip starts on the Northern Rhodesia side about 350 yards up from the Eastern Cataract. It is a very pleasant trip and takes about 10 minutes through the islands. When you get to the island, just follow the path. On the way you will notice a tree with a ring of stones round it; this is the tree on which Dr. Livingstone carved his initials—parts of the letters can still be seen. Each letter is about 14 inches high. On emerging from the trees go to the left, and from a vantage point near the edge you will get a glorious view of the Gorge looking towards Eastern Cataract. When you start back go straight across the gorge towards the Main Falls; with the sun in the west, the water breaking over the top looks like millions of pearls. On the opposite side can be seen little waterfalls caused by the spray. They never reach the bottom, being blown back again into spray.

**Silent Pool**—Cross the bridge and about 200 yards up the road you will find some steps made of railway sleepers. Go

down these, cross over the railway line and climb the bank on the other side. The path to the left will take you to the settling pool for the water that goes down the 3-foot pipe to the Victoria Falls Power Company's hydro-electric power station. You are now looking up Third Gorge to the right and down Fourth Gorge to the left. If you like climbing it is possible (with permission) to go down the 400-odd steps to the station itself.

**Fourth Gorge**—Walking from the front of the hotel towards the swimming bath, take the path to the right leading to the hotel compound, at the corner of which turn left and go on to the Gorge. From the edge of the cliff you get an excellent view of the Fourth Gorge, looking up towards Silent Pool and down towards the Fifth Gorge.

**Baobab View (Northern Side)**—Go up the river bank from the Eastern Cataract to the cleft, cross over the main road to the Hubert Young Drive and, after crossing the railway line, climb up the hill. You will then see a baobab tree with a platform in it, from which a lovely view of the river and island is obtained. You will also get a very good idea of the width of the Falls themselves as shown by the spray from end to end.

**Riverside Drive**—Riverside Drive "hugs" the North Bank. Access is down the road leaving the main highway on the Livingstone side of the Marimba Bridge. It passes the Boating Club and the Old Drift, where the only sign of Old Livingstone is the Pioneer Cemetery in a quiet grove near the river. The drive is completed via the Kambwira Road to Livingstone, or via Knight's Drive which runs along the Airport ridge and affords a view of a long stretch of river with the Southern Rhodesian ridge as the horizon.

**Fishing**—The Zambezi River is becoming well-known as one of the best fishing rivers in Southern Africa. At various points from a mile above the Victoria Falls to Mambwa, 48 miles by road from Livingstone, big catches with rod and line have been recorded. Many types of tilapia are caught in these waters, also tiger and barbel.

**River Trips**—River trips from the North Bank are conducted by Tounti Enterprises, Munsay, Livingstone, at 9.30 a.m. and 2.30 p.m. Reservations should be made. The charges are £6s. for adults and 2s. for children, which includes tea from any Livingstone hotel to King's Landing and return. The launch follows a circular course passing various islands and landing at Palm Island where tea is served. The return trip is by a different route, passing on the opposite side of King George VI Island.



The Eastern Cataract of the Victoria Falls seen from the Northern Rhodesia bank. With its palms and dense vegetation the Zambezi River reveals Tropical Africa at its most luxuriant.

#### Livingstone Town

The modern town of Livingstone, formerly the seat of Government in Northern Rhodesia before Lusaka was established as the capital, is seven miles from the Falls over a good tared road.

A regular bus service operates between the Falls and Livingstone several times a day, the fare being 2s. 6d. per passenger each way. Bus services are also operated from the town to Livingstone airport and within the town itself. Tourists are advised to obtain time-tables from the Municipality. There are also two taxi-hire companies in the town which specialise in tourist services.

The *Federal Tourist Centre* is situated between the Rhodes-Livingstone Museum and the new Civic Centre in Jameson Road, Livingstone (the main entrance from the Falls direction). The Federal Tourist Officer and a competent staff are available to give assistance to visitors.

The *Rhodes-Livingstone Museum* is well worth visiting. On display is much fascinating material relating to Native Life and Tribal History in Northern Rhodesia, and one room is devoted to the letters and other relics of Dr. David Livingstone, the famous missionary and explorer. Curios. If you wish to buy curios as a memento of your visit, there are two curio shops near Victoria Falls Station and also a large curio shop in Livingstone. Native hawkers also sell a wide range of African-made curios in the streets of the town.

Fishing Tackle to suit various types of fishing can be purchased locally.

Banking Facilities. Both Barclay's Bank and the Standard Bank of South Africa have branches in Livingstone and also agencies at the Falls Hotel.



The Tourist Centre, Livingstone, which houses the Victoria Falls Office of the Tourist Development Department. The Federal Tourist Officer and Staff will give visitors every assistance.

#### Air Trips

To see the Falls in proper relation to the river and surrounding country, see them from the air. For a charge of 2s. you are assured of 20 minutes of glorious views. Not only is the river very picturesque but the Gorges are seen at their best from the air. Book your flights at the Falls Hotel. (Children's fares, 12 years and under: 1s.) For a charge of £5 you can fly 240 miles in twin-engined aircraft (about 2 hours' flight) up the Zambezi River, passing over parts of Northern and Southern Rhodesia, South-West Africa and Bechuanaland. During the flight you will see elephant, giraffe, hippo, crocodile and practically every type of big buck in their hundreds. Shorter flights can be arranged. The aircraft operate from the Falls aerodrome. Flights to the Wankie National Park (game reserve) can be arranged to connect with motor tours of the reserve.

#### Game Park

There is a 300-acre game park about four miles along the Livingstone road, with about 250 head of game. Entrance is by car only, for which a charge of 1s. is made. If you do not have your own car one may be hired from nearby garages. Driving along the many roads in the park you will see giraffe, zebra, and many species of big buck. Do not lose your ticket, for you have to surrender it when you leave. When you pass the exit gate, turn left and go down to the warthog, wild pig and sitatunga pens.

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#### FOR FURTHER INFORMATION APPLY TO

The Director of Federal Tourist Development,  
P.O. Box 8052, Causeway, Salisbury, Rhodesia.

The Federal Tourist Officer,  
P.O. Box 258, Livingstone, Rhodesia.

The Federal Information Officer,  
P.O. Box 80, Zomba, Nyasaland.

The Office of the High Commissioner for the Federation of Rhodesia and Nyasaland,  
429 Strand, London, W.C. 2, and  
P.O. Box 153, Pretoria, South Africa.

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